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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/648,262	08/27/2003	Yoshiakira Yokoyama	56937-085	5228

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McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY  
600 13th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

DEBROW, JAMES J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/648,262

Applicant(s)

YOKOYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

James J. Debrow

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3 pages/27Aug/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on 27 Aug 2003.
2. Claims 1-2 are pending in this case. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sampath et al. (US 2002/0169803 A1; Filled Dec. 5, 2001).**

**With regard to independent claim 1,** Sampath et al. discloses a system for generating structured documents via a graphical user interface. Through the graphical interface, the user can *input parameters* to select the desired presentation, specifications, and format of the document from information derived from a database. (section 0023, lines 6-9; section 0025, lines 1-3; 401 in Fig 4; 404 in Fig 4). The database stores templates of documents (*group of data components with tags*). The system also consists a Document Generator that is connected to the database, which searches the database when specific templates are requested (section 0040). The Document Generator consists of three modules (112 in Fig 1b), a structure template transformer module, which takes document specifications as input and restructures, translates and *instantiates* the specifications into a structured document template (*template database part*) (section 0036, lines 1-4; 114 in Fig 1b); a document content filling operator module (*synthesizing unit*), which takes the document template as input and queries the database to fill the placeholders (*character train variables and data variable with a tag*), and attribute placeholders inside the template (section 0036, lines

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5-7; 114 in Fig 1b); a document maker module, which takes the generated document (*target document*) and publish it in a browseable book or file (section 0036, lines 8-9; 115 in Fig 1b). The documents that are generated from the stored templates can be of several types, ie. SGML, XML, or HTML documents (section 0016). It has been established that these type documents consists of *character train variables, and data variable with embedded tags*. Therefore, it can be concluded that the Sampath et al. database unit and the current invention database unit are constructed similarly.

Sampath et al. doesn't disclose expressly *an entity referring unit for searching the template database part, and the variable-content database part on the basis of the character train variable and the data variable with a tag*.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art that before the character train variables and the data variables with tags are instantiated within the template document, they would first need to be located within the database. The motivation for doing so would have been to determine if the template document structure is valid. Therefore, it would be obvious that Sampath et al. would provides a mechanism for searching the database to located character train variables and data variables with a tag that will be instantiated in the template document .

**With regard to dependent claim 2**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as in claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James J. Debrow whose telephone number is 571-272-5768. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James J. Debrow  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2176

*William L. Bashore*  
WILLIAM BASHORE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
11/3/2005